

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: September 21, 1961

FROM : SAC, Birmingham (105-0)

SUBJECT: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
IS - X

On September 19, 1961. Mrs. [redacted]

INFORMANT

[redacted] Alabama, advised that she attended a meeting of the "Freedom Forum" at the Municipal Auditorium in Birmingham, on [redacted]. She said this was an open meeting and attended by well known Birmingham people. She stated she believes it was at this meeting that somebody got her name and later gave her an invitation to attend the JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY, on Tuesday, September 12, 1961, at which about 100 people were present.

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A Mr. (FNU) [redacted] whose store is [redacted] on [redacted] was [redacted] present, as well as [redacted]

A film featuring ROBERT WELCH, founder of this group, was shown. She said the film was about two hours long and very boring. A speaker, whose name Mrs. [redacted] could not recall, told the members present that they should not refer to themselves as Americans, but as "Patriots". This speaker said that the organization works in cells of about eight to ten people in a cell.

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Mrs. [redacted] said she believes this group is un-American or against this country, but has nothing specific to offer in this regard. She stated she thinks they are conservative and are against heavy spending by the Federal Government for armaments, etc.

Mrs. [redacted] said she believes the JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY in Birmingham was organized at a meeting prior to the one she attended. She said she has not joined,

2 - Bureau (RM)
1 - BH

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REC-95 62-104401-1435

16 SEP 25 1961

55 SEP 29 1961

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6/2/86 BY [redacted]

BH 105-0

although she was given an application blank. She said she does not know the names of any of the officers.

No investigation will be made concerning this organization. Any further information received will be forwarded to the Bureau, for information.

62-104401-1439
CHANGED TO
62-111313-71

DEC 20 1966

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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DATE 6/5/86 BY 20484/hrs

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (62-104401)

DATE: 9/19/61

Copy
FROM : SAC, DALLAS (100-10402)

SUBJECT: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
MISCELLANEOUS -
INFORMATION CONCERNING REC-23 p1, 2

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Evans
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Mr. Tele. Room
Miss Gandy

[redacted] Texas,
on 8/22/61, advised SA JAMES L. LOTT of the following information:

[redacted] stated that on [redacted] while attending a party at Abilene, Texas, he met [redacted] Hardin B. APPROX [redacted] Simmons University, Abilene, Texas, and that night shared a room with [redacted] the Sands Motel in Abilene. [redacted] became involved in a discussion about world politics and current events and at this time [redacted] had been selected to join an organization which [redacted] The name of the organization was [redacted] stated that it [redacted] the "JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY". [redacted] stated that [redacted] advised that the purpose of the organization was to fight communism. [redacted] had been given a background investigation and had been selected to assume the [redacted] Texas Technological College. [redacted] that the [redacted] the "communist activities of the professors of that college". [redacted] also advised [redacted] that the information so furnished would be processed through the higher channels of the Government and that there would be times when [redacted] would have to attest to such information by making affidavits before Agents of the FBI." [redacted] advised that [redacted] told him that as a member of the organization he would be allowed to carry a gun, which would have the serial numbers filed off of it and in the event [redacted] had to use the gun to kill a Communist the FBI would make sure there was no trouble about it since the FBI had files on all members of the organization".

[redacted] further advised that on [redacted] while at his home, he received a telephone call from [redacted] in which [redacted] asked [redacted] to come to Abilene for a meeting at the coffee shop at the Sands Motel. [redacted] advised that he drove to Abilene and arrived at the Sands Motel about 5:00 PM that day. As he entered

2 - Bureau
1 - Dallas

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Let to Dallas

9-29-61

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

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DATE 6/5/86 BY [redacted]

REC-23 62-104401-1443

13 SEP 25 1981

DL 100-10402

[redacted] B. [redacted]
the coffee shop he was contacted by [redacted] who
identified himself as a member [redacted]
told [redacted] Abilene Christian College
and that he had been sent to meet [redacted] advised that
[redacted] treated him to a steak dinner and that this surprised
him since he had never met [redacted] before. After dinner [redacted]
told [redacted] to go out and get in the back seat of [redacted] car and
lie down on the floor and that he, [redacted] would drive to the
Organization's Headquarters. [redacted] then advised that he complied
with this request and that after a long drive he was told he could
get up and get out of the car. [redacted] did not know what part of
town he was in but he is sure it was still in Abilene. [redacted]
led [redacted] out of the car and into a [redacted]

[redacted] Here. [redacted] and another indi-
vidual introduced only as [redacted] advised that at
this time he was told by [redacted] that the Organization was
involved in "Waging germ warfare against Cuba". [redacted] advised
that he was then taken into a small room at the back of the
[redacted] and was photographed and fingerprinted by [redacted]
He was also told to write a sentence in longhand so that it
could be submitted to the Organization's handwriting expert.
[redacted] advised that at this time [redacted] was carrying a revolver
in shoulder holster and that he saw another revolver in a holster
hanging from the wall. [redacted] then advised that [redacted] told him
to sit down so that he could find out more about the organization.

[redacted] members from
the students at Texas Tech. Each new member was to pay \$25.00
upon joining and \$1.00 per month dues; all monies payable to
[redacted] Abilene Christian College. [redacted]

[redacted] fifty members at Texas Tech. [redacted]
that it would be [redacted] contact former FBI
Agents to come to Texas Tech and speak on the subject of Communist
activities in the United States. [redacted] then said that [redacted] might
hear a rumor that [redacted] was dishonorably discharged from
the Marine Corps and that he had once been arrested in Abilene
[redacted] then advised that these
rumors were true but that both happenings were arranged by
the FBI.

[redacted]
Texas Technological College, Lubbock, Texas and that he has
always been interested in fighting Communism and would like to
become an informant for the FBI. [redacted] attempted to recruit members
for the organization at the Texas Tech campus with no success.

DL 100-10402

He then advised that he began to doubt that the organization had any legitimate connection with the FBI and he thought that he should speak to an Agent of the FBI about it. [redacted] advised that he knows [redacted] Hardin Simmons University and that he is in his [redacted]
[redacted]

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The following descriptions were furnished by [redacted]
[redacted]

Name	[redacted]
Age	[redacted]
Race	White
Sex	Male
Height	6'
Weight	200 lbs.
Build	Stocky
Hair	[redacted]
Eyes	Brown
Complexion	Fair
Occupation	[redacted] Hardin-Simmons University Abilene, Texas
Residence	[redacted] Hardin-Simmons University

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Name	[redacted]
Age	[redacted]
Race	White
Sex	Male
Height	5'10"
Weight	165 lbs.
Build	Medium
Hair	[redacted]
Complexion	Fair
Occupation	[redacted] Abilene Christian College, Abilene, Texas
Residence	[redacted] Texas

Name	Unsub, aka. [redacted]
Height	6'
Race	White
Sex	Male
Weight	165 pounds
Hair	Brown
Build	Slender
Eyes	Brown

DL 100-10402

Name	[REDACTED]
Race	White
Sex	Male
Height	5'10"
Weight	165 pounds
Build	Medium
Eyes	Brown
Hair	Brown
Complexion	Fair
Occupation	[REDACTED] Texas Tech, Lubbock, Texas
Residence	[REDACTED] Texas,
Telephone #	[REDACTED]

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1 - Mr. Kleinkauf

SAC, Dallas (100-10402)

September 29, 1961

REC- 23

Director, FBI (62-104401) - 1443

EX 100

**JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
INFORMATION CONCERNING
(INTERNAL SECURITY)**

Reurlet 9/19/61 reporting information received from [redacted] Texas, concerning [redacted] which was described as [redacted] the John Birch Society."

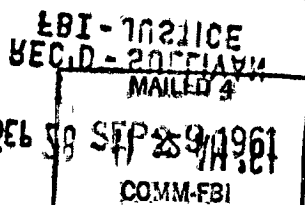
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Bureau indices are negative concerning prior references identifiable with [redacted]. The files of the Identification Division disclose that [redacted] was arrested by the Police Department, Abilene, Texas, on [redacted] on a charge of theft. At the time of arrest his address was listed as [redacted] Texas. The Police Department's arrest number was [redacted]. On [redacted] [redacted] was released to the county, no disposition being shown in connection with his arrest.

You are instructed to contact [redacted] immediately and advise him that the statements made by [redacted] indicating a connection between the FBI and [redacted] the "FBI would make sure there was no trouble" if [redacted] used a gun to kill a communist "since the FBI had files on all members of [redacted]; and the FBI had arranged for a dishonorable discharge from the Marine Corps and an arrest for stealing [redacted] are completely false and without foundation. You should make certain he understands this and the fact that any action he engages in on behalf of "The Organization" are his own actions and are not approved or sanctioned by the FBI.

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You should also have two mature, experienced Agents locate and interview [redacted] Hardin-Simmons University, and [redacted] Abilene Christian College, both schools being located in Abilene, Texas. [redacted]



TELETYPE UNIT ☐

6 OCT 6 1961

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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DATE 6/5/86 BY SPY

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SAC, Dallas
Re: John Birch Society
62-104401

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and [] should be told in no uncertain terms to cease and desist from making any statements such as those set out above and referred to in relet, indicating the Bureau is in agreement with or in back of any of their activities. They should also be apprised of the Bureau's responsibilities in the internal security field and admonished to refrain from engaging in any activities which would encroach on and interfere with our responsibilities.

The above interview should be handled promptly and the Bureau immediately furnished the results thereof.

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October 2, 1961

INFORMAL MEMO TO WILLIAM S. TAVEL *ST*

FROM C. D. DE LOACH

This memorandum is being prepared so the attached material can be placed in the appropriate Bureau file. The item has a card attached to it, furnishing all necessary data for indexing and filing.

Enclosure

*article: The Man Behind the
John Birch Society.*

*Look Magazine
9-26-61*

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REC- 39

62-104401-14145

CL. BEHIND FILE

20 OCT 4 1961

ENCLOSURE

(2)

CRIM

58 OCT 9 1961

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE *6/5/80* BY *8004*



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

October 3, 1961

THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY, INC.

By undated letter printed on letterhead of The John Birch Society, Incorporated, which was addressed to "Dear Fellow American," Z. R. Cecil, Chapter Leader, Pittsburgh Chapter 881, The John Birch Society, advised that Robert Welch, founder of The John Birch Society, would speak in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on Wednesday evening, October 11, 1961, at 8:00 p.m. in the Lecture Hall of the Carnegie Institute at 4400 Forbes Avenue.

The above letter continued that Mr. Welch's subject would be "Through All the Days To Be" and that the recipient was invited as one whom the society believed shared its concern for America's future and freedom everywhere, to hear this challenging address.

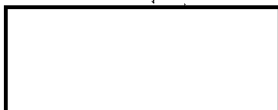
The letter stated that admission would be by ticket only; that there would be a seat for every ticket holder, and that questions from the audience would be welcome. A donation of \$1.00 per ticket which was to go entirely toward the financing and expansion of the non-profit John Birch Society was to be sent to Z. R. Cecil, Agent, or to The John Birch Society.

On November 7, 1957, a law enforcement officer in the Pittsburgh area furnished a pamphlet issued by "For America, 1001 Connecticut, N. W., Washington 6, D. C." which indicated that one Zack R. Cecil of Pennsylvania was a member of the National Policy Committee of "For America."

According to the above pamphlet, "For America" was described as a patriotic, nonpartisan, free association of Americans. The association was said to stand for states' rights, competitive enterprise, private property and individual liberty, and was opposed to all moves toward internationalism, fascism, socialism, atheism, and communism.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

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62-104401-1446
ENCLOSURE

1/20/89

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: 10/3/61

FROM : SAC, Pittsburgh (62-2670)

SUBJECT: THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
INFORMATION CONCERNING
(INTERNAL SECURITY)

Enclosed are five copies of a letterhead memorandum concerning a meeting to be held by captioned organization at Pittsburgh on 10/11/61.

The undated letter mentioned in the memorandum was received unsolicited via the U. S. Mails by SA BERNARD W. CASHDOLLAR of this office. The law enforcement officer referred to in said memorandum is CHARLES J. HELWIG, who in 1957 and currently, was and is Chief of Police at Oakmont, Pa. Chief HELWIG furnished the pamphlet mentioned to SA [redacted] (PG 105-1839-4)

It is noted that the Pittsburgh files also indicate that one ZACK CECIL (no further identifying data) [redacted]

[redacted] former Philadelphia Office informants, to appear before a Senate Internal Security Subcommittee in Washington, D. C., [redacted] (Philadelphia teletype to Bureau, 10/31/55, captioned [redacted] [redacted] FORMER SECURITY INFORMANTS")

In view of the nature of this information and the fact that it is not definitely known that the ZACK CECIL is identical with the Z. R. CECIL referred to in the letterhead memorandum, this latter information has not been incorporated into the memorandum.

No investigation is being conducted by this office.

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REC- 98

- ② - Bureau (Encs. 5) (RM)
1 - Pittsburgh

(3)

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EX-112

16 OCT 4

ENCLOSURE

62 OCT 6 1961 199

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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DATE 11/30/82 BY SP4

STATES GC

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Memorandum

TO : The Director

DATE:

9-26-61

FROM : N. P. Callahan

SUBJECT: The Congressional Record

Pages A7720-A7722. Congressman Rousselot, (R) California, extended his remarks to include an article entitled "The John Birch Society" which was published in the May 19, 1961, issue of the Civic Affairs Monthly, a publication of Civic Affairs Associates, Inc. Mr. Rousselot pointed out "As a member of the society, I am anxious that people have an opportunity to know the strong points of the society as well as its vulnerabilities in order that they may come to an independent evaluation of the society."

Original filed in:

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10/5/86 BY [redacted]

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162-104401-
NOT RECORDED
149 OCT 4 1961

In the original of a memorandum captioned and dated as above, the Congressional Record for [redacted] was reviewed and pertinent items were marked for the Director's attention. This form has been prepared in order that portions of a copy of the original memorandum may be clipped, mounted, and placed in appropriate Bureau case or subject matter files.

58 OCT 9 1961

ORIGINAL FILE IN

66-1731-2046

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Evans	_____
Mr. Malone	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Ingram	_____
Miss Gandy	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

OCT 3 1961

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REC-92

62-104401-1448

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6/3/86 BY [redacted]

EX 100

22 OCT 3 1961

CORRESPOND

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

Tolson _____
 Belmont _____
 Mohr _____
 Callahan _____
 Conrad _____
 DeLoach _____
 Evans _____
 Malone _____
 Rosen _____
 Sullivan _____
 Tavel _____
 Trotter _____
 Tele. Room _____
 Ingram _____
 Gandy _____

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: 10-4-61

FROM : D. C. Morrell *DCM
DWS*

*For
Morrell*

SUBJECT: [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] CALIFORNIA

By letter 9-29-61, captioned individual, [REDACTED] advised that former Vice President Nixon quoted from a recent address of the Director regarding the error of assuming that anyone who does not agree with us is a communist or pro-communist. According to [REDACTED] Nixon gave this answer in response to a question concerning whether he would welcome support from members of the John Birch Society. Correspondent stated the obvious implication was that the John Birch Society is guilty of the acts the Director referred to and inquired if this conclusion was correct.

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Correspondent also remarked on the contrast of the Director's "solicitude" for those who are wrongfully labeled communists, but failed to find the same concern for those labeled Fascist. [REDACTED] wonders if this is part of the "Double Standard" referred to in "The New Drive Against the Anti-Communist Program."

Bufiles contain no information identifiable with correspondent. It would appear that [REDACTED] is a sarcastic, dogmatic individual whose logic and reasoning are unsound and who apparently is looking for an argument. Further, he may be a member of the John Birch Society. It is felt nothing can be gained by acknowledging his letter and, in fact, he might misuse any reply to cause potential embarrassment to the FBI. Accordingly, it is felt his letter should not be acknowledged.

RECOMMENDATION:

That correspondent's letter not be acknowledged.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
 DATE 6/5/16 BY [REDACTED]

EX 100

REC-35

62-104401-1451

OCT 6 1961

(3)

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b7C62 OCT 11 1961 *gh*

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (62-104401)

DATE: 10/6/61

FROM : SAC, DALLAS (100-10402)

SUBJECT: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
INFORMATION CONCERNING (INTERNAL SECURITY)

Remylet 9/19/61 and Bureau letter 9/29/61 under above title.

In the course of the handling of this matter as outlined hereinafter, it was ascertained on 10/5/61 through Chief of Police WARREN DODSON, NA, Abilene, Texas Police Department that the true name of the individual referred to in relets as

Chief DODSON said [redacted] and a boy named [redacted] were all arrested on [redacted] on charges of theft involving the stealing of [redacted] and on charges of burglary involving a breaking into of premises at [redacted]. All were subsequently indicted on the theft charge by the Grand Jury and on [redacted] all three were given [redacted] sentences on the theft indictment. [redacted] and [redacted] were also indicted on the burglary charge, but no court action has ever been taken on this, and probably will not be unless the conditions of the boys' probation are broken, DODSON said.

In view of the allegations [redacted] has been seen with a firearm in a shoulder holster on his person, the detail of the data furnished by [redacted] was made known to him. [redacted] was not identified to DODSON in this regard, and he was told no investigation of the matter has been made by the FBI.

It was further pointed out to Chief DODSON that as he would probably know without being told, [redacted] do not have, and never have had, any connection with the FBI of any kind; that the Bureau has no knowledge of, and certainly has not sanctioned or sponsored, any [redacted] and [redacted] and that the FBI definitely did not have any part in, and had absolutely no knowledge at the time of, the deprecations for which [redacted] and [redacted] were arrested in [redacted], and similarly [redacted]

- cc Room 817 [redacted]
- 2-Bureau
- 2-San Antonio (Enc. 2)
- 2-Dallas

(6)

REC-65

16

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6/28/80 BY [redacted]

Letter to San Antonio

10-12-61

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62-104401-1453

DL 100-10402

had nothing whatever to do with [] undesirable discharge from the U.S. Marine Corps. Chief DODSON said he, of course, understood this. He said he would see the allegations concerning [] possibly being in possession of and carrying, weapons were made known to proper authorities in Abilene.

On 10/4/61 []

[] the Grissom Company, 14th Street Store. Abilene. by SAS COLEMAN MABRAY and KENNETH C. HOWE. He

[] Abilene Christian College []

Without identifying the source there was sketched for him the details of the information received by the Bureau to the effect he and [] were, or had been, [] some sort of "Anti-Communist organization" and in connection therewith had made statements the FBI had knowledge of the matter, "would make sure there was no trouble" if difficulties were encountered, especially in connection with the use of a gun, and had arranged for the violations of law he and [] had committed and for [] dishonorable discharge from the U.S. Marine Corps in furtherance of their organizational schemes.

[] said he knew of only one incident which would have given rise to the above, this being on the occasion some six or eight weeks ago when a boy from [] was in Abilene at the invitation of [] was asked by [] to go through a certain "ritual" with him. [] said that had all been drinking, and he looked upon the matter as "a lark", and for the purpose of impressing this boy from [] the reason for this being unknown to him. [] then described the events of the evening much as had [] when he reported the matter to the Dallas Office, except [] said he has no recollection of the FBI being mentioned beyond the statement being made that an anti-Communist organization such as they [] "could be of use to the FBI."

It seemed apparent to the interviewing agents [] was "hedging" in the telling of his story, and he was informed as much. He was additionally told, however, that Agents were not there essentially for the purpose of "quizzing" him or attempting to prove or disprove the reports we had received, but for one purpose only, that purpose being to inform him in no uncertain terms that the FBI will not tolerate its name being used without complete authority under any circumstances, or for any purpose, and that he should clearly understand this and govern himself accordingly in the future. He was told the FBI has no interest

in his or [] activities so long as no federal laws are violated and same did not encroach upon or interfere with our responsibilities, but in connection with any of them we will insist they studiously avoid giving anyone the impression, directly or indirectly, that the FBI is in any way involved in them, has sanctioned them, or is lending any support to them.

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[] said the boy referred to as [] was one, [] at Texas University in Austin, Texas. He said [] was using a home laboratory in the home of a [] family in Abilene, and it was there he took "the boy from []". He said the [] family was not at home. [] said he left the room while [] was talking here to the [] boy, and does not know what was said. He said he then took the [] boy to a second place, a room in a business place on North First Street in Abilene for which [] had made arrangements. There [] and this boy had a lengthy conversation, but, here again, [] said he was not in a position to overhear it. He said [] was wearing a gun, he believes a ".45", in a shoulder holster. Where this gun had been obtained by [] said he did not know. He denied ever having seen it before or since.

[] was contacted telephonically at [] [] at Hardin-Simmons College, Abilene, TX, and subsequently came to and was interviewed at the Abilene Resident Agency on 10/4/61 by SAS COLEMAN MABRAY and KENNETH C. HOWE.

[] upon being given the same detail as had [] also identified the incident from which this information had probably arisen as the occasion when [] visited Abilene from [] was not communicative in connection with the happenings of that evening, and was not pressed in that regard. He denied having made any statements which would even imply the FBI was in any way involved, or that he had any connection or contact past or present with the FBI.

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[] was told, as had been [] the Agents were not talking to him to go over the occurrences of that evening, or any of his other activities, but wanted to specifically point out and emphasize to him, in view of the reports we had received, he is never, under any circumstances, to say anything which will directly or indirectly indicate the FBI is in agreement with, in back of, or in any way supports or sanctions any of his activities; that any such statements by him or any other

unauthorized person will not be tolerated and could have unpleasant consequences. He was further told the FBI had no interest in any organizational aspirations he might have so long as there was no violation of federal law and no interference with or encroachment upon our responsibilities, but that we would insist the name of the FBI be kept out of the picture completely in connection with any such program.

No question was left in the minds of either [redacted] or [redacted] as to what the Bureau's position in matters such as the above is, and the seriousness of the affair was thoroughly impressed upon them. They said, following the interviews with them, they completely understood this.

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[redacted] also identified the individual referred to my relet as [redacted] at the University of Texas, Austin, Texas, and a son of DR. [redacted] Texas. He advised the home in which [redacted] was that of [redacted] who has a small laboratory in his home. He said [redacted] Texas University, Austin, but added he [redacted] was not at home on the evening [redacted] was there.

On 10/5/61 [redacted] was interviewed at his residence in [redacted] By SA JAMES W. LOTT, and it was re-emphasized to him the FBI is in no manner involved in any activities of [redacted] or those of any other individuals whom he might have met or with whom he might have come into contact while in Abilene. He was told any information he might have been given in this regard by [redacted] was strictly figments of their imaginations; that the FBI does not tolerate such implications by unauthorized individuals and is taking definite steps to see this is thoroughly understood by all individuals involved.

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Enclosed for the San Antonio is one verifax copy each of Dallas letter to Bureau dated 9/19/61 and Bureau letter To Dallas dated 9/29/61.

LEAD:

SAN ANTONIO OFFICE

AT AUSTIN, TEXAS

UACB will interview [redacted] at the University of Texas along lines requested in rebulet.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: 8-31-61

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FROM : M. A. Jones

Tolson	
Belmont	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mohr	
Callahan	
Conrad	
DeLoach	
Evans	
Malone	
Rosen	
Sullivan	
Tavel	
Trotter	
Tele. Room	
Ingram	
Gandy	

SUBJECT: INQUIRY FROM SENATOR THOMAS H. KUCHEL
REGARDING JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY (JBS)
AND REQUEST TO SEE DIRECTOR AND RECEIVE
SPECIAL TOUR OF FBI FACILITIES

The Washington Field Office advised by letter of August 28, 1961, that Senator Thomas H. Kuchel had been contacted by one of their Agents on that date in connection with an official matter. Kuchel expressed great personal concern over the activities of the John Birch Society (JBS). He has taken an active stand against their activities and they have denounced him publicly. He feels the society is seriously interfering with the FBI's jurisdiction in security matters and would like to have a meeting with the Director to discuss the specific action which can be taken both by him and the Bureau against the JBS. He also requested that he be permitted to take a personal tour of the FBI's facilities suggesting a time near the end of the present session of Congress or the week of 9-5-61.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6/9/86 BY [signature]

INFORMATION IN BUREAU FILES:

Bufiles reflect we have had cordial correspondence with Kuchel over the years. By letter of 7-11-61 the Director thanked Kuchel for his generous comments about the Director's administration of the FBI which Kuchel expressed in the Senate on 7-7-61. We last communicated with him by letter of 8-23-61 from the Director in connection with a constituent matter.

The John Birch Society was founded in 12-58 in Indianapolis, Indiana, by Robert H. Welch, Jr., of Belmont, Massachusetts. It is incorporated under laws of State of Massachusetts; is allegedly anticommunist; has chapters throughout the country; and has not been investigated by the Bureau; Welch and the Society in the past have been extremely critical of former President Eisenhower. (62-104401)

OBSERVATIONS

NOT RECORDED
167 OCT 6 1961

Because of the extremely controversial nature of the JBS, particularly among many of the prominent members of Congress, it is not felt desirable the Director should discuss this matter with Senator Kuchel. However,

1 - Mr. DeLoach

1 - Mr. Ingram

1 - Tele. Room

(6)

XEROX

10 OCT 5 1961

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ORIGINAL COPY FILED IN 62-98689-24

Jonesto DeLoach Memo
RE: Congressman Kuchel

because of Kuchel's cordial attitude toward the Bureau perhaps, at a later date, arrangements could be made for the Director to briefly meet Kuchel at a time when the Director would not be drawn into the controversial nature of the JBS.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

(1) The Director not see Kuchel regarding the JBS.

(2) Arrangements be made for Senator Kuchel to receive a special tour by a Special Agent assigned to the Crime Records Division.

(3) You, or a representative of your office, contact Senator Kuchel and advise that his request has been relayed to the Director. However, the uncertainty of the Director's schedule will preclude his indicating a definite time to see the Senator. He should be advised the FBI has not investigated the JBS and consequently, can make no comments concerning it. During this contact, he should be cordially invited to receive a tour of our facilities here at FBI Headquarters.

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b7C

ADM. ASST.
CONTACTED
AND HE WILL
ADVISE KEMPER
WHEN SENATOR CAN
COME FOR TOUR
ech

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: 8/28/61

b6
b7C

FROM : SAC, WFO

SUBJECT: REQUEST RECEIVED FROM
THOMAS H. KUCHEL
UNITED STATES SENATOR (CALIFORNIA)

Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. Belmont	✓
Mr. Mohr	✓
Mr. Callahan	✓
Mr. Conrad	✓
Mr. DeLoach	✓
Mr. Evans	✓
Mr. Malone	✓
Mr. Rosen	✓
Mr. Sullivan	✓
Mr. Tavel	✓
Mr. Trotter	✓
Tele. Room	✓
Mr. Ingram	✓
Miss Gandy	✓

On August 28, 1961, United States Senator THOMAS H. KUCHEL (California), upon being contacted by an Agent of this office on an official matter, expressed great personal concern over the activities of the John Birch Society. He stated he feels the members of this society have taken upon themselves the responsibility of investigating the Americanism of various public officials and individuals. Senator KUCHEL stated he personally has taken an active stand against the activities of this society and they in turn have denounced him publicly. He stated he feels the society is seriously interfering with the FBI's jurisdiction in security matters, and he would like sometime soon to have a conference with the Director to discuss the specific action which can be taken both by him and the Bureau in connection with this group.

Senator KUCHEL also requested that he be permitted to take a personal tour of the FBI's facilities since he has heard so many favorable comments about them. He suggested that a time nearer the end of the present session of Congress would serve him best and that possibly sometime next week would be suitable.

Senator KUCHEL requested the interviewing Agent to furnish the above information to the Director. No commitments were made; however, he was advised that his request would be made known to the Director.

NOT RECORDED
167 OCT 6 1961

(2) - Bureau
1 - WFO
(3)

*Jones to DeLoach Memo
8-31-61*

b6
b7C

OCT 5 1961

82 OCT 11 1961

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6/19/86 BY SP4

OCT 6 1961

ORIGINAL COPY FILED IN 67-98619-23

Mr. Kleinkauf

October 12, 1961

AIRTEL

To: SAC, San Antonio

From: Director, FBI (62-104401)

JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
INFORMATION CONCERNING
(INTERNAL SECURITY)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4/5/96 BY SP4/BJM

Re Dallas letter 10/6/61 enclosing copies of
Dallas letter to the Bureau dated 9/19/61 and Bulet to
Dallas dated 9/29/61 for your office.

Bureau indices do not contain any record identifiable
with [redacted] the University of Texas,
Austin, Texas.

You are instructed to promptly interview [redacted]
in accordance with the lead set forth in relet and furnish
the Bureau with the results thereof immediately upon conclusion
of the interview.

1 - Dallas (100-10402)

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NOTE ON YELLOW:

Dallas letter 9/19/61 furnished information received
from a [redacted] stated he had become acquainted
with [redacted] Hardin Simmons University, Abilene,
Texas, and that [redacted] advised him that [redacted] had been selected to
join an organization described as [redacted] the John
Birch Society. According to [redacted] had advised him that he
[redacted] had been selected as [redacted] the organization
at Texas Technological College, where [redacted] and that
[redacted]
of the professors of that college. [redacted] also advised [redacted] that
information so furnished would be processed through the higher
channels of the Government and there would be times when [redacted] would
have to attest to such information by making affidavits before
Agents of the FBI.

(5)

NOTE ON YELLOW CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO

MAIL ROOM

Tolson _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
DeLoach _____
Evans _____
Malone _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Ingram _____
Gandy _____

55 OCT 17 1961

Airtel to San Antonio
Re: John Birch Society
62-104401

[redacted] that as a member of the organization he would be allowed to carry a gun and in the event [redacted] had to use a gun to kill a communist the FBI would make sure there was no trouble about it since the FBI had files on all members of the organization. According to [redacted] also advised him that [redacted] might hear a rumor that [redacted] had been dishonorably discharged from the Marine Corps; that he had once been arrested in Abilene for stealing [redacted] and that both of these rumors were true but that both happenings were arranged by the FBI.

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Bulet 9/29/61 instructed Dallas to contact [redacted] immediately and advise him that the statements made by [redacted] were completely false and without foundation and to make sure that [redacted] understood this. Dallas was also instructed to locate and interview [redacted] Abilene Christian College who, along with another individual identified only as [redacted] had contacted [redacted] as members of this organization. Dallas identified [redacted] during the interviews of [redacted] (whose true name turned out to be [redacted]). Per Bureau instructions Dallas in their interviews with [redacted] admonished those individuals to refrain from engaging in any activities which would encroach on or interfere with the responsibilities of the Bureau in the internal security field. It is believed to "Wrap-up" this matter we should have San Antonio interview [redacted] in the same manner.

UNITED STATES

Memorandum

TO : Mr. C. D. DeLoach

DATE: October 5, 1961

FROM : D. C. Morrell

Callahan
 Mohr
 Callahan
 Conrad
 DeLoach
 Evans
 Malone
 Rosen
 Sullivan
 Tavel
 Trotter
 Tele. Room
 Ingram
 Gandy

SUBJECT: [REDACTED]

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CALIFORNIA

By letter 9-28-61, captioned individual advised she is a member of the John Birch Society. She wants "a straight, honest-to-God answer" from the Director concerning whether the FBI considers the John Birch Society a subversive or communist organization.

She professes her love for America and points out that in "Masters of Deceit" the Director stressed the communist menace and the need for Americans to fight it, but states that if the Director does not "back us up when we try to fight it," he is sending her and her associates "out to do battle with our hands tied behind our backs." All she wants from the Director is an "honest answer" and states this will determine whether she remains a "Bircher."

Bufiles reflect a prior letter from captioned individual in 1957, in which she accused the Director of lying with regard to Bureau Agents allegedly holding persons incommunicado in the Little Rock school case. Her letter was not acknowledged. She wrote again on 11-25-60, alleging a Federal Election Laws violation claiming her name was crossed out from the voting register but that she was eventually allowed to vote. Her letter was acknowledged on 12-9-60 and she was advised the matter had been referred to the Civil Rights Division of the Department.

OBSERVATION:

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6/5/90 BY [REDACTED]

In view of the above information, it is believed this matter can best be handled by the attached in-absence reply because it is felt if we do not acknowledge correspondent's letter, or give her a form in-absence response, she would continue to write the Bureau for a reply.

RECEIVED OCT 20 1961

REC-27

b6
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OCT 12 1961

RECOMMENDATION:

That [REDACTED] attached in-absence letter be sent.

Enclosure

3) 58 OCT 17 1961

John Birch Society

Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. Belmont	✓
Mr. Mohr	✓
Mr. Callahan	✓
Mr. Conrad	✓
Mr. DeLoach	✓
Mr. Evans	✓
Mr. Malone	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Sullivan	
Mr. Tavel	
Mr. Trotter	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Ingram	
Miss Gandy	

[Handwritten signature/initials across bottom of routing slip]

b6
b7C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6/24/86 BY [redacted]

EX-100

REC-47 62-104401-1459

OCT 22 1967

CORRESPONDENCE

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (62-104401)

DATE: 10/16/61

FROM : *Ew* [redacted] SAC, SAN ANTONIO (100-9455)

b6
b7C

SUBJECT: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
INFORMATION CONCERNING
(INTERNAL SECURITY)

Re Dallas letter to the Director, 9/19/61, Bureau letter to Dallas, dated 9/29/61, and Dallas letter to Director, dated 10/6/61.

On October 13, 1961, Mr. [redacted] The University of Texas, residing at [redacted] Texas, was contacted by SA GEORGE W. H. CARLSON, and SA H. T. BURK, in the Student Union Building at The University of Texas. Several attempts had been made to contact him at his apartment at [redacted] with negative results.

Mr. [redacted] was very humble, admitted his mistake, and apologized for having participated in the incident in Abilene, Texas, in [redacted] He readily admitted that he was not thinking, and now realized the seriousness of the incident.

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Instructions contained in Bureau letter, September 29, 1961, were followed, and [redacted] was admonished accordingly. He was also apprised of the Bureau's responsibilities in internal security field.

Mr. [redacted] indicated a very high regard for the FBI, and promised that he would never permit himself to become involved in such an incident in the future. He was also very appreciative of the Bureau's position in this matter, and expressed regret that it was necessary to take the Agents' time in this matter.

RUC
2-Bureau (RM)
2-Dallas (100-10402) (RM)
1-San Antonio

REC-9

62-104401-1463

(5)

RECEIVED
OCT 17 1961

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b7C

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

Tolson ☒
 Belmont ☒
 Mohr ☒
 Callahan ☒
 Conrad ☒
 DeLoach ☒
 Evans ☒
 Malone ☒
 Rosen ☒
 Sullivan ☒
 Tavel ☒
 Trotter ☒
 Tele. Room ☒
 Ingram ☒
 Gandy ☒

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: 10-11-61

FROM : M. A. Jones

b6
b7C

SUBJECT: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] GEORGIA

D.C.

Va.

Captioned individual, [REDACTED]

John

Birch (for whom the John Birch Society is named) personally visited the Bureau on the afternoon of October 11, 1961, and spoke with SA James R. Healy, Crime Research Section. [REDACTED] the United States Air Force at [REDACTED] Georgia, and is in Washington to attend a Pentagon conference.

b6
b7CALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 8-5-86 BY SP4

[REDACTED] furnished a copy of a column (attached) by Joe Parham (who is on the Special Correspondents' List), editor of "The Macon News," which quotes a portion of the Director's recent statement "The Communist Party Line" urging citizens to approach the communist menace in a positive rather than negative fashion. [REDACTED] George S. Birch of Route 1, Macon, Georgia, asked him to bring this clipping to the Bureau and determine if this truly reflected Mr. Hoover's views and if it was aimed at any anticommunists in particular.

The strictly investigative nature of the FBI was pointed out to Mr. [REDACTED] along with the fact that it would not be proper for the FBI to comment on this editorial expression. He was told that Mr. Hoover's pamphlet speaks for itself.

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During the interview, Mr. [REDACTED] expressed his admiration for the FBI and the Director's leadership and was most appreciative for the opportunity to speak with one of the Director's representatives. Bufiles reflect nothing identifiable with Mr. [REDACTED] in Georgia.

RECOMMENDATION:

For information.

Enclosure

1 - Mr. DeLoach

1 - Mr. Sullivan

ENCLOSURE

REC-4

10 00

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CRIME

63 OCT 23 1961

EX-102

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

Tolson _____
 Belmont _____
 Mohr _____
 Callahan _____
 Conrad _____
 DeLoach _____
 Evans _____
 Malone _____
 Rosen _____
 Sullivan _____
 Tavel _____
 Trotter _____
 Tele. Room _____
 Ingram _____
 Gandy _____

TO : Mr. W. C. Sullivan *WCS*

DATE: October 20, 1961

FROM : Mr. F. J. Baumgardner *FJB/K*

SUBJECT: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
 INFORMATION CONCERNING
 (INTERNAL SECURITY)

1 - Mr. Belmont
 1 - Mr. Sullivan
 1 - Mr. Baumgardner
 1 - Mr. Kleinkauf

b6
 b7C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
 DATE 11/5/76 BY [redacted]

Dallas letter 9/19/61 furnished information received from a [redacted] Texas Technological College (TTC), Lubbock, Texas. [redacted] stated he had become acquainted with [redacted] Hardin Simmons University (HSU), Abilene, Texas; that [redacted] advised him that he [redacted] had been selected to join an organization described as [redacted] the John Birch Society; that [redacted] advised him he [redacted] of the organization at TTC; that [redacted] on the communist activities of professors at TTC; and that [redacted] advised him the information so furnished would be processed through the higher channels of the Government and there would be times when [redacted] would have to attest to such information by making affidavits before Agents of the FBI. According to [redacted] also advised him that as a member of the organization he would be allowed to carry a gun and in the event [redacted] had to use a gun to kill a communist the FBI would make sure there was no trouble about it since the FBI had files on all members of the organization. [redacted] also advised [redacted] might hear rumors that [redacted] had been dishonorably discharged from the Marine Corps; that he had once been arrested in Abilene for stealing [redacted] and that both of these rumors were true but both happenings had been arranged by the FBI. On one occasion at [redacted] proceeded to Abilene where he met two other members of the alleged organization, namely, [redacted] (later identified by the Dallas Office as [redacted] Abilene Christian College (ACC), and [redacted] (later identified by Dallas as [redacted] the University of Texas, Austin, Texas.

Pursuant to instructions contained in Bulet 9/29/61 the Dallas Office advised on 10/6/61 that [redacted] was contacted and it was emphasized to him the FBI is in no manner involved in any of the activities of [redacted] and that any information he might have been given in this regard by those three individuals was strictly figments of their imaginations. [redacted] were interviewed and they advised that their actions in this regard were strictly "a lark" and a college prank. They were admonished to refrain from engaging in any

62-104401

(5)

62 OCT 26 1961

REC-40

EX-112

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OCT 24 1961

62-104401-1473

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Memorandum to Mr. Sullivan
Re: John Birch Society
62-104401

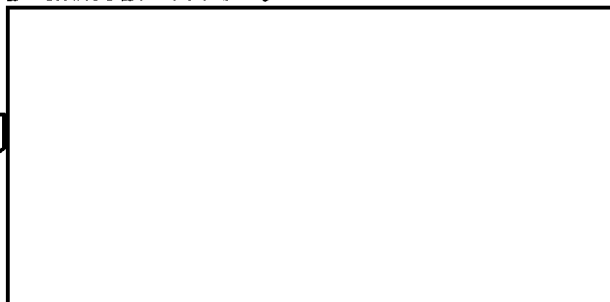
activities which would encroach on or interfere with the responsibilities of this Bureau in the internal security field and they were told in no uncertain terms to cease and desist from making any such statements or taking any such action in the future indicating the Bureau is in agreement with or in back of any such activities on their parts. These individuals identified [redacted] to Dallas Agents as being [redacted] the University of Texas, Austin, Texas.

Pursuant to instructions the San Antonio Office located and interviewed [redacted] and advised by letter 10/16/61 of this contact. During the interview [redacted] was admonished along the same lines that [redacted] had been admonished. He was very humble, admitted his mistake and apologized for having participated in such an incident. He stated he was very appreciative of the Bureau's position in this matter; expressed regret that it was necessary to take the Agents' time in this matter; promised he would never permit himself to become involved in such a situation in the future; and expressed a very high regard for the FBI.

ACTION:

None. For information.

was
[redacted]



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 10/26/61

FROM : SAC, CINCINNATI (100-13536)

SUBJECT: THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
INFORMATION CONCERNING [REDACTED]

On 10/5/61, Mr. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Jewish Community Council, 184 Salem Avenue,
Dayton, Ohio, was contacted at his request, as he
advised he had some information concerning the John
Birch Society, which might be of interest to the Bureau.

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Mr. [REDACTED] advised SA ROBERT H. BERTKE that the
[REDACTED] the Society in the Dayton area was [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] the
Occidental Life Insurance Company. He felt that [REDACTED]
reason for stepping down was not because he has had a
change of heart, but that he found his open association with
the Society was hurting his business. [REDACTED]

The [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] residing at
[REDACTED] Ohio.

Originally the Society was composed of eight
cells in the Dayton area, but now has expanded to more,
which he estimated to be about twelve. They no longer
refer to themselves as cells of the John Birch Society,
due to the recent unfavorable publicity the Society has
received. Their plan now is to set up what [REDACTED] termed
"Front Groups", however, he knew of no specific groups
that have been set up nor any names they were using. He
advised at the present time they are calling themselves
merely Discussion Groups.

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[REDACTED] stated he is receiving most of his
information concerning the Society from a source, [REDACTED]

General Jackson Heating Company, 1521 North Gettysburg
Avenue.

2 - Bureau
1 - Cincinnati (100-13536)

REC-12

EX-110

001 50 1901

(3)

171

6/5/86

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b7C

*Member Subject
Organization*

[redacted] Ohio
[redacted] is presently attending meetings of a group. [redacted]

[redacted] They meet approximately every two weeks, have no specific meeting date, but meet only when the group is called together. There are about twenty persons in the group. A recent suggestion made at a meeting was to research each other to determine whether everyone present was truly a believer in the aims and purposes of the group. [redacted] did not know whether this suggestion was carried out.

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Among the members of the group were the following:

Mrs. [redacted] the Daughters of the American Revolution.

[redacted] Brothern Ministers of the Brothern Church.

[redacted] Television Station WLW-D

Mr. [redacted] the Kentucky Veterans Association.

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Mr. and Mrs. [redacted] advised that he has heard that [redacted] and his wife, residing at [redacted] Ohio have started up a group in their neighborhood.

He stated that on [redacted] an open meeting was held at Wohlleben Hall, University of Dayton, Dayton, Ohio. This meeting was one of a series of meetings, which originated with the symposium conducted by Assistant Director WILLIAM SULLIVAN of the FBI in the early part of 1961.

[redacted] the Political Science Department at the University and [redacted] of the John Birch Society in Indiana [redacted] During the course of the meeting, the following persons stood up and stated they would form discussion groups:

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of Subject Organization

Mrs. [redacted]
Mrs. [redacted]
Mrs. [redacted]
Mr. [redacted]

Dayton, Ohio

*Member Subject
Organization*

[redacted] did not know whether the above persons